

House File 52 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 52

BY HUNTER

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the establishment of a study of the
2 economic, fiscal, and social impact of the living wage in
3 Iowa.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. LIVING WAGE IMPACT STUDY.

2 1. If funding is approved or appropriated to the state
3 board of regents for such purposes, Iowa state university shall
4 conduct a study regarding the economic, fiscal, and social
5 impacts of establishing the living wage, also known as the
6 self-sufficiency wage, in Iowa. The living wage in the study
7 shall be based on a 40-hour work week, and the study shall
8 provide all of the following:

9 a. A two-tiered living wage, one tier with benefits and one
10 without benefits, for family sizes ranging from two people to
11 six people for all 99 counties.

12 b. The impact that a living wage would have on full-time
13 workers, the multiplier effect of a living wage on the economy,
14 and whether more jobs would be created by this multiplier
15 effect.

16 c. How a living wage would impact public assistance
17 programs, particularly whether it would reduce costs.

18 d. How a living wage would impact state and local economic
19 development programs.

20 e. How a living wage would assist or hinder the housing
21 market.

22 f. Taking into account paragraphs "b", "c", "d", and "e",
23 examine whether there would be an overall positive impact on
24 the economy considering possible business concerns of inflation
25 and job loss.

26 g. Evaluate other states or metropolitan areas that have a
27 living wage to provide examples of how a living wage could be
28 implemented on a phased-in basis for all workers in this state,
29 including the private and public sectors.

30 h. Any other recommendations that the individuals assigned
31 to the study believe are relevant to establishing a living wage
32 in this state.

33 2. An Iowa state university sociology professor, an
34 Iowa state university human development and family studies
35 professor, and an Iowa state university economics professor,

1 all who specialize in this area, shall conduct and coordinate
2 the study.

3 3. The department of workforce development, the department
4 of economic development, the department of human services,
5 the university of Iowa, the university of northern Iowa, the
6 child and family policy center, the Iowa policy project,
7 and representatives of labor organizations and associations
8 representing business and industry shall cooperate in
9 conducting the study.

10 4. Iowa state university shall submit a report about the
11 findings of the study to the general assembly by December 16,
12 2011.

13 EXPLANATION

14 This bill directs Iowa state university, contingent upon
15 funding, to conduct a study regarding the economic, fiscal, and
16 social effects that a living wage, or self-sufficiency wage,
17 would have in Iowa. The bill details the criteria that the
18 study must include. Three Iowa state university professors
19 with specialized knowledge in this area shall conduct and
20 coordinate the study.

21 The bill requires that the department of workforce
22 development, department of economic development, department
23 of human resources, the university of Iowa, the university of
24 northern Iowa, the child and family policy center, the Iowa
25 policy project, and representatives of labor organizations and
26 business and industry associations also participate in the
27 study.

28 A report on the study's findings is due to the legislature by
29 December 16, 2011.